Boston, April 29. 1854.

Dear Mr Webb,

I shall lose the pleasure of seeing Miss Shackleton (who goes out to England in company with Joseph Barker & others, I hear) - as she has not yet made her appearance in Boston; and on Monday morning I go to my house in Leicester (which has been closed for 3 months), to superintend a little painting, &c., & do not expect to return hither till after the Anniversary in New York, which will be on the 10th, the very day that Miss S. & her party are to leave Boston. - I have however got the little volume - "Passion Flowers" - (by Mrs. Howe, wife of Dr. Sam'l G. Howe, the Director of the State Asylum for the Blind), which I shall put into Mr. Wallcut's hands to be put into Miss S.'s. - By the same conveyance I trust you will receive this; and I take the opportunity to send herewith a statement of our account, which in my turn I beg that you will criticize & command upon. I must first however acknowledge yours of March 31, - rec'd. April 16 - enclosing draft on Barclay & Livingston, New York, for £15-16-6, which I cashed at the rate of $4.80 to the pound, it being impossible to do better. - By my first account, (herewith sent) dated April 29, & balanced at $66.88, you will see I credit the receipt of $15.75, for the Second year of the Advocate; - at ~~75~~ seventy five cents to each paper,

and not 1/2 cts. as you thought in former account. I made up this account, and squared it by a sort of forced balance, before receiving yours of March 31, which contained your remittance; this I did, in order to bring the Bazaar Acct. to a close, & pay over the balance in my hands to Mr. Jackson. That was not a regular way of doing, as it left me nothing to pay you for the 2d Year of the Advocate, and as you have since sent me ~~all~~ the whole balance of Anti Slavery money in your hands, you have nothing left to pay yourself from for the Advocate, which makes me sorry that you sent me so much money. I wish I knew if you would like to have me send back by Miss Shackleton so much as is necessary to cover the Advocate subscription; or if you would prefer to have me retain it, for future uses. — In this uncertainty, and as I am not to see Miss Shackleton myself, I conclude not to send it, but will at any time you choose to call for it. — I forced the balance, & settled my account with you as enclosed, for the reason that I preferred to make the whole matter an account between you and the Bazaar, so far as I am concerned; otherwise, I should have to open (so far as I can see) a long

number of accounts, some on your side of the water as well as ours. – I shall give you, of course, all the items, even to the minutest detail, and you will please to re-arrange it in your own account right. – We all feel, as I surely need not tell you, the most entire confidence in your correct keeping of the accounts; – we are more solicitous that you shall not do yourself a wrong in the matter, either by paying for the Bazaars and getting no payment in return, or by being kept out of the money that is due you longer than is reasonable. And whenever any sum is due to you, over & above what I may have of yours in my hands, I shall consider the duty of the American A.L. Society to discharge the debt, and I have no doubt they will all feel the same. – P.S. In sending all subscriptions, new or old, it is highly desirable that the name should be written in full, the name of residence or post-office address in full, and (if possible) the time from and to which the subscription money paid is supposed to extend.

I am very glad of the arrangement you made to receive the Box yourself – & not allow it to be opened at Liverpool. Your reasons are very satisfactory. I have not the slightest doubt that it is the best economy of money, as well as the most certain way to ensure a correct & prompt distribution of

the parcels, to have them go to you. – I am sorry that W. Farmer turns out the man he does. How well he exposed, as I have always supposed, Frederick Douglass after the latter's base attack upon Geo. Thompson! But I now presume that G. T. did all the real work in that case, leaving Farmer to put together, arrange, & fill up.

I have had a very pleasant letter from Powell, at Liverpool. He is as much in the cause as ever, I should think, and seems desirous to serve it. He thinks that, another year, he can forward the boxes more understandingly and correctly than the last; and I suppose the notice which Anna Weston gave at the close of her last Report may induce our friends & donors to send their contributions through his hands.

I hope soon to hear from you of the Box's safe arrival. –

I shall look, too, with interest for your comments on what I wrote to you respecting the "Standard", and its value as one of the objects, & the principal object upon which the Means of the American Society are expended. I am very clear in my own mind on the subject. I ask myself – How better, how else, could we spend the money, ~~can~~ (supposing that we should be able to get it) if the Standard did not exist? Should we bestow it upon Such Anti-Slavery papers as

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the New York Evening Post? - an admirably conducted paper in many respects, with ~~others~~ a decidedly anti-slavery character, with Wm. C. Bryant & other able men to edit it, with a large circulation, and of considerable influence with the Democratic party, - but which, when the pinch comes, goes for Franklin Pierce and his Cabinet of unprincipled Scoundrels to be our government, and openly approves his vile Inaugural address! Or shall we give it to the New York Tribune, a very anti-slavery paper, with some of the ablest & strongest anti-slavery articles I have ever read in my life appearing in its columns since this Nebraska business has been before the country, edited by Horace Greeley and a corps of able assistants, with a circulation of 150,000 copies? Shall the Tribune have our money, and use it to promote another Zachary Taylor's election, to the Presidency, or Winfield Scott's, the man who declared if he didn't enforce the Fugitive Slave Law, we might write infamous after his name and kick him into the gutter. The Tribune supported both those men, and has declared its readiness to go again for Scott. Or shall we make over our funds to the Liberty Party - with their false & chimerical construction of the Constitution, & their saddling the Anti-Slavery Cause with forty other matters, some of which are held in

much more esteem by their leading men than Anti-slavery itself, if we may judge by the amount of attention they give to these respective subjects;- or to the Free Democratic Party, with its continual compromises of principle, of justice, of consistency, and of honour, in order to secure votes! - Or, as our excellent friend Pillsbury would probably advise, Shall we expend it all upon Lecturers, those that we have, and all others, the best we can get, and such as there are? (thereby leaving comparatively dormant and unemployed the talents with the pen which is now connected ~~with~~ with the Cause, and by which very many are reached every week, who would be seldom visited by the lecturer.) Supposing we take up with that advice, & resolve next year to employ Lecturers only, abandoning the Standard. Those lecturers go forth and speak. Their converts immediately ask, What publication is there which shall regularly bring to our doors tidings of this cause, and carry forward the work you have commenced!- what paper is there upon which we may depend that it will not befog and mislead us for its own selfish or party ends?

what paper has the great Anti-Slavery Cause
mainly & supremely at heart, and will
adhere to it, and to a system of thorough &
uncompromising warfare upon it, in the
face of all opposition, in spite of all temptations,
manfully, to the end? And what can they
answer? What can they recommend? The
Liberator will not answer the wants of a
large proportion of such inquirers. It is not
alone an Anti-Slavery Paper. It discusses every
thing the Editor pleases, sacred & profane, in
Heaven and upon Earth. Those who can
grasp the Liberator in their hand, and walk in
its company, are among our strongest men & women.
But there are others, of great excellence, of high
character, and of deservedly wide influence, who
are not ready for it. And a paper, of the
general idea & character of the Standard, would
have to be supplied, if it did not now exist. —
— In former years, I have not been without my
doubts & difficulties as to the Standard; but they
long since entirely ceased to exist. Now I am
fully persuaded, that if we would keep the
Evening Post, the Tribune, the Free Democratic

Party and its Organs where they are, and make them better (of which there is as much crying need), we can do nothing so effectual as to keep up our radical Organization, and its radical, uncompromising Organ and Advocate.

But I shall gladly welcome your further ideas & comments on this subject.

And here, for the present, I must close. We hear, from week to week, good accounts of Pillsbury's health, although he is not yet relieved of that pain in his side, which is a most unfavorable symptom. And all we hear of our dear W. Esther leads us to feel, deeply & sadly, that our cause will soon lose the help and comfort of his earthly presence. Would that we might all be as ready for our departure as he! I fear that in the last Liberator Garrison has spoken too personally of him & Mary & to suit them. All the while he thinks himself very forbearing, and as saying almost nothing.

Farewell — Affectionately Yours

Samuel May Jr

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